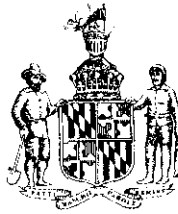


Chair - Education, Health, and
Environmental Affairs Committee

Chair - Health Subcommittee

Senate Chair
Joint Committee on
Health Care Delivery and Financing

Legislative Policy Committee
Executive Nominations Committee
Rules Committee
Management Subcommittee
Special Committee on Substance Abuse
National Conference of State Legislatures



The Senate of Maryland

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401-1991

PAULA C. HOLLINGER
STATE SENATOR

MP04-254

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September 15, 2004

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Powell:

Corporate special interests are lobbying the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for the right to charge new and expensive fees on calls made with many pre-paid calling cards.

For consumers, this can only mean one thing: prices for many calls are going to surge higher.

This increase would hit particularly hard on Marylanders who either do not have or can't afford their own telephone service: the poor, immigrant communities, and students. It would also disproportionately hit military servicemen and -women, as well as lower-volume callers, such as elderly Marylanders, who do not use the telephone enough to justify more expensive "all you can call" plans.

Prices are already rising for gas, milk and other products. Consumers don't need higher prices for phone calls too - especially as a giveaway to massive corporations.

On behalf of my constituents, I encourage you to think about the Marylanders who rely on these cards and the negative impact higher fees will have on them.

Sincerely,

Paula C. Hollinger
State Senator

05-133

BATCH CONTROL SHEET

Batch No. 04110302

Begin Batch: Date 11/3/04 Time 2:30pm

Page:	Doc #1 <u>6</u>	Doc #4 <u>4</u>	Doc #7 <u>2</u>	Doc #10 <u>2</u>
	Doc #2 <u>1</u>	Doc #5 <u>1</u>	Doc #8 <u>1</u>	Doc #11 <u>12</u>
	Doc #3 <u>1</u>	Doc #6 <u>2</u>	Doc #9 <u>2</u>	Doc #12 <u>6</u>

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